

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

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Ex-Mutineer

A former rebel army officer facing coup charges renounced his links with a group of military mutineers Friday and admitted he held talks with communist guerrillas.

Page 4



Goodbye

Gary Valenciano, Mr. Pure Energy, said goodbye to his fans recently during a free concert at the Ayala Center in Cebu City.

Page 5



Heavily guarded speech

Govt to deploy 13K soldiers, police in GMA speech to Congress

By OLIVER TEVES
AP WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine government plans to deploy at least 13,000 police and troops around Congress for the president's state-of-the-nation address after uncovering an

alleged plot to seize the legislature, a police official said Thursday.

The plot involved mutinous officers who allegedly planned to take lawmakers hostage and declare a revolutionary government to oust President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, amid concern of restiveness in the military, metropolitan

Manila police chief Vidal Querol said. Arroyo is set to address the nation on July 24.

The military said Wednesday the plan was revealed in documents seized from six fugitive officers arrested last week near Congress. In February, the government claimed it foiled an al-

leged coup plot by disgruntled soldiers, communist rebels and their political backers.

The documents included blueprints of the legislature and surveillance pictures of the area. Also seized were explosives, weapons and laptop computers.

HEAVILY Page 2



BANZAI!!!

Children play in floodwaters that inundated the northern suburb of Malabon brought about by tropical storm "Bilis" Thursday July 13, 2006 in Manila, Philippines. Classes remain suspended in metropolitan Manila for the second straight day as tropical storm "Bilis" became a full-fledged typhoon dumping more rains as it headed toward Taiwan and leaving 12 people dead. The tropical storm also triggered several landslides in the northern Philippine city of Baguio burying homes and cars. See related story on Page 4.

Cheaper, lighter steel peso coins to put off smugglers

By DORIS DUMLAO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

To cope with skyrocketing metal prices and make coin smuggling less attractive, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has altered the metal content of the various denominations of the Philippine peso and centavo coins.

The change in the metallic composition was prompted by rising prices of copper, nickel and zinc, said BSP currency analysis and redemption manager Maria Gracia Malic.

CHEAPER Page 2

May OFW remittances \$1.14B, up 29.8 percent

Remittances from Filipinos working abroad that were coursed through banks grew 29.8 percent year-on-year to 1.14 billion dollars in May, the central bank said.

This brought inflows for the first five months of the year to 4.85 billion dollars, up 14.8 percent from the same period last year.

The central bank expects remittances to rise 10 percent this year from a record 10.7 billion dollars in 2005.

There are over 8 million Filipinos working
MAY Page 2

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PINOYNEWS

Seven community members off to meet GMA

By **MARCONI CALINDAS**
REPORTER

Seven CNMI public officials and community members left the island for Manila yesterday for a chance to meet Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

The seven will be attending the 2nd Ambassadors and Consuls General Tour 2006 led by Philippine Consul General to the CNMI Wilfredo DL. Maximo.

Consul and acting head post

Belinda Ante said the Consul General left with Office of Insular Affairs Field Representative Jeff Schorr and wife Hannah, Attorney Reynaldo Yana, Pacific Development Inc. officer Mario Espeleta, Marianas Visitors Authority acting managing director Tess Castro and husband entrepreneur Augustine Castro, and United Filipino Organization vice chairwoman Nelia Atalig.

The Philippine Consulate has partnered with Century

Travel Agency, Inc. for this tour. The program will run from July 13 to 22.

Maximo said the highlight of this program is a chance to meet Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo at the Malacañang Palace in Manila.

The trip includes the three-night hotel stay, a Metro Manila City tour, breakfast and other activities that would surely provide memorable moments, according to Century Travel Agency.

The itinerary for the guests

will include VIP lei reception and assistance at both Immigration and Customs counters at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. An aircon tourist bus with guide will bring participants to Makati to check-in at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel and the New World Renaissance Hotel.

The tourists will also have an option to join a tour of the Makati Central Business District and The Fort. "Tiangge" and an Expo will also run

throughout the duration of the basic tour that includes: shops for Philippine attire, handicraft, and exquisite jewelry and chit-chat with experts on "Pasarap, Paganda, Pasaya, at Pangkabuhayan packages" [health and wellness, medical tourism, and entrepreneurship].

They will also have an exciting and unique tour of Intramuros with a Lights and Sound Museum Tour, Fort Santiago, "Bahay Tsinoy", National Museum of the

People, the Gold Exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum, the American Cemetery, and the "Libingan Ng Mga Bayani."

The visitors will also proceed to Rizal Park for a wreath-laying ceremony and a visit to the Malacañang Palace and its museum.

A tour at the Cultural Center of the Philippines and the Mall of Asia and a visit to the "Gawad Kalinga" Village to help rebuild a community will be the last stop for the tourist.

HEAVILY

FROM PAGE 1

"We are going to employ layers and layers of security," Querol said.

He said 12,000 police, including members of the elite Special Action Force and units from as far away as northern regions, will

be deployed inside and around the sprawling Congress compound as part of a "very, very elaborate security preparation."

He said police will be backed by 1,000 soldiers from the military's National Capital Region Command. Another 1,000 troops that will be on standby.

Querol said the security prep-

arations also were prompted by intelligence reports that communist rebels will disrupt the event allegedly by throwing a grenade at protesters to "ignite anti-government sentiments."

The president's address has traditionally been used by left-wing and other opposition groups for anti-government

demonstrations involving thousands, but police have always prevented them from coming close to Congress.

On Wednesday, army spokesman Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro said the military rebels had planned to seize and secure a stronghold at the Congress complex and hold House mem-

bers hostage while declaring their "withdrawal of support from the Arroyo government."

He said the plot included operations "designed to embarrass and cause ridicule" to senior administration officials, including former Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defen-

sor and Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez.

A military statement belittled the plot's chance of success, saying the mutineers had "no significant specific forces," were lacking in firearms and most of the "key personalities involved in the planning are already neutralized."

CHEAPER

FROM PAGE 1

The BSP issued a new batch of coins in May to reduce production costs—with the new P1 coins weighing only 5.35 grams instead of the previous 6.1 grams.

The new P1 coins are nickel-covered steel. The earlier editions were 75 percent copper and 25 percent nickel.

The new brass-covered coins now weigh 3.6 grams while earlier editions weighed 3.8 grams and were made up of copper and zinc at a 65-35 percent ratio.

But only the one-peso and the 25-centavo coins have so far been reconfigured.

Malic said the new coins carried the same design as the old ones and that the weight difference should not be a problem with vending machines because it only required adjustments in settings.

The intrinsic value of Philippine coins, given the high cost of raw materials and minting, is usually greater than their face value, especially for lower-denominated 25-, 10-, 5- and 1-centavo coins.

As such, some unscrupulous

groups find it profitable to hoard coins and sell them abroad to cash in on high metal prices.

To curb smuggling, BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo said the key was intensified enforcement and greater intelligence.

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) and the BSP foiled attempts by some groups to ship out over the last weekend about P3 million worth of hard currency denominated in P1 to Japan, where demand for metals is high.

It was the fourth coin smuggling attempt stopped by the government since last year.

"It has become more attractive because of high commodity prices," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said.

Anti-smuggling efforts

Based on BSP estimates, P5.6 million worth of coins have so far been seized in anti-smuggling operations.

The first coin smuggling foiled last year was P1.2 million worth of 25-centavo coins recovered from an export processing zone.

On Feb. 18, the government also foiled the smuggling of P971,000 worth of P1 coins and another attempt to ship out P400,000 worth of P1 coins last May.

Philippine laws prohibit taking out over P10,000 worth of Philippine currency without declaring it to the BOC.

Surging world prices

The recently confiscated P1 coins can yield more than 13 tons or 13,725 kilos of copper and over 4 tons, or 4,575 kilos of nickel.

World copper prices are almost at \$8,000 a ton while nickel prices are around \$23,000 a ton.

Last Friday, copper prices surged by more than 6 percent to \$7,890 a ton as more hedge funds, banks and other investors poured out more money in commodities, driving up the price of other metals.

Nickel prices are at their highest level since 1987.

North Korea's test-firing of missiles last week also helped jack up metal prices in the world market.

Looming shortage

But Tetangco said smuggling was not necessarily the biggest reason behind the looming shortage of coins in some regions of the country.

He said there was about P2 billion worth of peso coins currently in circulation, but these coins were not being re-circulated effectively.

Tetangco said some were stashed away in jars and piggy banks, for instance.

As of end-2005, there were

11.1 billion pieces of coins in circulation, 6.7 billion pieces of which were low-denomination coins. This brought coins per capita to 121, way above the ASEAN standard of 50 pieces.

Legal tender defined

The BSP's policy-making Monetary Board has already approved a new legal tender definition that seeks to "encourage the public to use coins in day-to-day transactions."

The BSP is set to issue a circular that would allow the public to make payments of up to P1,000 using coins denominated in P1, P5 and P10 or a combination of these. For coins denominated in 25 centavos or less, any transaction worth up to P100 shall be considered legal tender.

Prior to this ruling, the vendor has the right to refuse payment in excess of P50 when a buyer is using coins denominated in 25 centavos, P1, P5 and P10.

For coins of even lower denominations—1, 5 or 10 centavos—the limit is even lower at P20.

next year also dampened sentiment on the local currency.

"There is no question that this year's budget deficit target will be met. But what some quarters are saying is that there may be a need to adjust next year's goal to help stimulate the economy. These calls are serving to curb market expectations," Ravelas added.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said Friday that the government remains committed to its goal of cutting the budget deficit to 63 billion pesos next year and balancing it by 2008.

Dealers said the peso's initial support is at 52.50. If this is broken, they are seeing a test of the 52.95 level. (*Xinhua Financial News Service*)

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'Balik Scientist' applications now open

By **MARCONI CALINDAS**
REPORTER

The Philippine Consulate General in the CNMI is inviting all interested Filipinos in the CNMI to apply for a chance to impart their expertise in the branch of

science and technology.

Consul and acting head post Belinda Ante opened the invitation this week to the Filipino community in the Commonwealth through her office. Ante said the application is open to all Filipinos or others that are of

Philippine-descent.

Ante said the Department of Science and Technology in the Philippines is still accepting applications for the Balik Scientist Program under the short-term expert category for calendar year 2006.

"A Balik Scientist is a science and technology expert who is a Filipino citizen or a foreign of Filipino descent, residing abroad and contracted by the Philippine government to return and work in the Philippines for short-term consultancy," said

the news release.

Ante said the priority areas covered by the BSP are biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, environment, information and communication technology, packaging research and development, housing and construction.

According to administrative order from DOST, this program will encourage Filipinos and others of Filipinos descent to return or reside in the Philippines, and share their expertise in order to accelerate the scientific, agro-industrial and economic development of the country.

Under the terms of the BSP, short-term experts are entitled to stay in the Philippines for a period of at least one month or a maximum of three months. The

program will shoulder roundtrip airfare tickets to qualified applicants of up to 150,000 pesos with daily subsistence allowance of \$150 per day.

The program aims to strengthen the scientific and technological human resources of academic, public and private institutions in order to accelerate the flow of technologies and stimulate the development of new or strategically important technologies that are vital to national development and progress.

Application forms and other information on the program may be downloaded from the BSP website at www.dost.gov.ph/bsp or request for the forms by emailing bsp@dost.gov.ph.

UFO content with July 4 participation

Although not the top winner, the United Filipino Organization says it is happy to have participated in the July 4 parade, citing its significance to the NMI-Philippine relations.

"More than the prize, we join the annual parade to celebrate the day with the local community," said UFO chairman Ed Reyes.

UFO's float ranked fourth in the best float category this year, receiving a \$1,000 cash prize.

Nine float entries joined this year's competition.

Last year, the group's entry was first place, getting \$2,500

in cash prize.

"It's okay with us. We hope to do better next year. But as I've mentioned, our main goal is to foster good relations with the Commonwealth," said Reyes.

For the 7th year, the UFO, an umbrella organization of 29 Filipino groups in the CNMI, joined the parade this year, highlighting the Camp Susupe liberation in 1946.

It was the first time that the Filipino group deviated from its usual theme: Philippine culture and history.

Meantime, Reyes cited the

high turnout of Filipino participants in the parade.

Aside from the UFO float, a number of different Filipino-based organizations joined the parade on Beach Road.

"It's a good thing that several other Filipino groups showed up," he said.

The parade, which began at 9am, reportedly gathered nearly

20,000 people along Beach Road in celebrating the 60th Liberation Day of the CNMI and the 229th American Independence Day.

"It's quite a success. As for our group, we are so grateful to everyone who helped us prepare the float. We thank everyone's generosity," said Reyes. (*Liberty Dones*)



Reyes

LABOR FRONT

Labor hearings

By **FERDIE P. DE LA TORRE**
REPORTER

Q: Are Labor hearings open to the public?

A: Yes. However, the Labor administrative hearing officers may, in unusual circumstances, order a proceeding or any part of a hearing closed if it would be in the best interests of the parties, a witness, the public, or other affected persons. The hearing officer should explain the reasons in any order closing a proceeding.

■ ■ ■

Q: What should be the proper conditions of the toilet facilities in the barracks for nonagricultural alien workers?

A: The number of sit-down toilets to be provided by the nonagricultural employers shall be no less than one per 15 persons. According to the Alien Labor Rules and Regulations, where there are 10 or more persons of different sexes using the toilet facility, separate toilet facilities, appropriately identified, shall be provided for each sex.

Toilet facilities shall be located within 200 feet of the sleeping quarters. No toilet facility shall be located in a room used for other than toilet purposes. Natural ventilation consisting of operable windows or other openings shall be provided. In lieu of natural ventilation, mechanical ventilation capable of exhausting at least two cubic feet per minute per foot of floor area may be provided.

Toilet facilities shall have adequate lighting. The employer should provide an adequate supply of toilet paper. Access to toilet facilities shall not intrude upon sleeping quarters.

■ ■ ■

Q: What should be the proper conditions of cooking facilities in a barracks for nonagricultural alien workers?

A: Cooking facilities are to be provided wherever workers are provided common living quarters. Cooking facilities shall be in an enclosed and screened shelter. Food shall be stored safe from contamination by water, dirt, poisonous substances, rats, flies, or other vermin.

Refrigeration facilities shall be provided for storage of perishable food. Facilities shall be adequate for insuring sanitary maintenance of eating and cooking utensils.

Submit questions on labor issues to Saipan Tribune via e-mail at editor@saipantribune.com, or by calling 235-6397, 235-2440, or 235-8747 and leaving a message at Ext. 133 or 135. You may also submit questions in person by writing it down and dropping it off at the Saipan Tribune's office on the second floor of the Century Insurance Building on Beach Road, Garapan.



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Army chief is the new AFP head

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The battle-hardened Philippine army chief has been named the overall head of the country's 117,000-strong armed forces, officials said Wednesday.

Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., 54, will replace Gen. Generoso Senga as military chief of staff on July 21 when Senga reaches the mandatory retirement age of 56, presidential Executive Secretary Edu-

ardo Ermita said.

Before he became army chief last year, Esperon commanded ground troops battling communist guerrillas and Muslim rebels in the southern Philippines, served as head of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's security guards, and headed the army's elite Special Operations Command that led special forces and highly trained counterterrorism units.

He was accused of involvement in alleged vote-rigging favoring Arroyo in the 2004 presidential elections, but was later cleared by a military investigating body.

Esperon was among officers who stood by Arroyo during an alleged failed coup in February that the government blamed on disgruntled soldiers, communist rebels and civilian backers.

Esperon noted he was taking

over the military's helm at a critical time. Arroyo has given orders for the military to wipe out the 37-year-old communist insurgency.

"In the pursuit of this war against the enemies of the state, I will be in the front line as often as I can. I will lead the charge," he told reporters.

He asked for public support and cooperation, saying it was not only the military's war.

Esperon is a 1974 graduate of the prestigious Philippine Military Academy. He also earned a master's degree in management from Philippine Christian University.

Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino, commander of the military's Northern Luzon Command, will replace Esperon as chief of the 75,000-strong army, Ermita said.

Arroyo unconcerned how history will judge her

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, who has been fighting fresh impeachment bids and coup plots, said she doesn't really care how history will remember her.

"I'm not going after being a great president. I just want to be a good president and not even necessarily in history," Arroyo was quoted as saying by Friday newspapers during a visit to the northern Philippines.

"We were all born to serve God and in the end, it's going to be God who will judge who has been good and who has been not good," she said.

The 59-year-old U.S.-educated economist and daughter of a former president is the least popular of all Philippine leaders since 1986, according to surveys.

With four more years in office, Arroyo has been hounded by allegations of vote-rigging in the 2004 election amid new impeachment complaints filed against her last month.

The military said last week it uncovered a fresh plot by fugitive military officers to seize Congress and disrupt Arroyo's state of the nation address on July 24.

Ex-military rebel officer recants

By **OLIVER TEVES**
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A former rebel army officer facing coup charges renounced his links with a group of military mutineers Friday and admitted he held talks with communist guerrillas.

The statement by 1st Lt. Lawrence San Juan, who was captured in February a month after escaping from military detention, likely would be used by the military to support its claim that rebel officers and the communist guerrillas tried to form a tactical alliance to oust President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

San Juan said Friday he met with communist rebels after his escape from detention following a mutiny in 2003, which the government has described as a coup attempt.

He declined to give details of his talks with a senior regional guerrilla commander, who the military identified as Tirso Alcantara.

San Juan was among young captains and lieutenants from elite special forces units who led about 300 soldiers in briefly occupying the ritzy Oakwood Hotel and a nearby shopping mall in Manila's financial district in 2003.

Describing themselves as reformist officers, they demanded that Arroyo and other officials resign, claiming her government and the military were corrupt. They surrendered 19 hours later and were detained in a military camp from where San Juan and three other officers escaped in January.

"I did not expect that the goals I was pursuing will lead to talks with the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army," San Juan said in a news conference called by the army.

It wasn't clear what made him change his mind, but he said that after much soul-searching and prayers he realized he made a mistake and damaged the 117,000-strong armed forces, his family and the nation.

"I am ready to face the punishment for my actions in accordance with legal processes. I would rather willingly admit my mistakes than stand by the wrongs I have committed," he told reporters.

He is facing separate charges of rebellion.

The military last week arrested six other fugitive officers, three of whom escaped with San Juan in January. Officials said the arrests uncovered a plot to seize the Philippine Congress and establish a revolutionary government.

Filipino woman tells court she wants to kill Marine suspects

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Filipino woman who claims a U.S. Marine raped her tearfully testified Thursday that she wants to kill him and the three fellow servicemen who allegedly encouraged him.

In her third appearance on the witness stand, the 22-year-old woman, identified by the pseudonym "Nicole," said a psychiatrist had been counseling her on how to cope with trauma since March, four months after the alleged rape.

"I am so angry at them," she said, referring to Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith, who is charged with raping her in a van, and

Lance Cpl. Keith Silkwood, Lance Cpl. Dominic Duplantist and Staff Sgt. Chad Carpentier, who are accused of cheering Smith on.

"I want to kill them. If it is allowed, I would be the one to kill them. They have no respect. They think they can have their way with all the women here," she testified.

Prosecutors say Smith, 21, of St. Louis, Missouri, raped the woman Nov. 1 after a night of drinking. The defense says Smith had consensual sex. The Marines face up to 40 years in jail if convicted.

The woman testified she had not returned to her southern

hometown of Zamboanga because "I am ashamed."

"I don't know what to tell my friends and I don't know how they will react," she said. "I no longer mingle with other people because I am afraid this might happen again."

Her sobbing interrupted her testimony several times until the judge ordered a recess.

In a fit of anger during her appearance Monday, the woman hit Smith with her fists and handbag as she headed toward the witness stand.

The judge scolded both sides and ordered a change in the seating arrangement to prevent a repeat of the incident.



Philippine Army 1st Lt. Lawrence San Juan, one of the junior officers who took part in the alleged failed coup attempt against Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo in July 2003, answers questions from newsmen during a news conference Friday July 14, 2006 at Fort Bonifacio south of Manila, Philippines. San Juan, who escaped from detention but was recaptured later, announced Friday he renounced his links with a group of military mutineers and admitted he held talks with communist guerrillas. At left is Army spokesman Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro.

'IMF impressed with RP fiscal and debt reforms'

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A senior International Monetary Fund official on Friday lauded the Philippines' efforts to pursue fiscal and debt reforms, saying the measures should set the country on course to achieve sustainable economic growth.

"I am impressed by the significant progress that has been made with economic reforms," IMF Deputy Managing Director Takatoshi Kato said in a statement after his Manila visit.

He commended authorities for accelerating the pace of fiscal adjustment, including the landmark value-added tax reform.

"These efforts should help set the country on a higher sustainable growth path," Kato said.

The government last year expanded the value-added tax to cover power and oil products, and three months later, raised the VAT rate to 12 percent from 10 percent.

Higher revenue and controlled spending allowed the Philippines to post a budget surplus in April and May, narrowing the budget deficit to 44.2 billion pesos (US\$850 million; €669 million) for the first five months of 2006, from 67.8 billion pesos (US\$1.3 billion; €1 billion) in the same period last year.

Bilis heads for China after battering Taiwan and RP

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Tropical storm Bilis churned toward southern China Friday after lashing Taiwan, drenching the island with downpours and leaving one person dead and two missing.

The typhoon weakened into a tropical storm early Friday after making landfall near the northeastern port of Ilan around midnight, the Central Weather Bureau said.

One man was electrocuted in Taipei on Thursday and two mainland Chinese fishermen went missing after a fishing boat ran aground off Taiwan's Matsu Island, officials said.

Bilis caused a series of landslides that disrupted traffic in central and eastern Taiwan but did not inflict major injuries, they said.

As of 8:30 a.m. (0030 GMT), Bilis was located at the Taiwan Strait about 90 kilometers (54 miles) southeast of Matsu Island. It was moving northwest and was expected to make landfall near Fujian Province Friday evening, the bureau predicted.

PINOYSTYLE

'Tsong': Kids before GFs

By **BAYANI SAN DIEGO JR.**
INQUIRER

Joey Marquez asks: "Why do women, when a love affair ends, refuse to remain friends?"

This shouldn't be a mystery; the women he had wooed, won and walked out on in the past had been a willful lot.

Can he tell when the end is near?

"When a woman starts competing with my children—for time and attention—that's when I say goodbye. I don't think any woman would like to be the second priority in a man's life."

He doesn't even try to explain to the woman, or to the public.

"Whatever they say, I just accept," Joey says.

This same advice he gave son Jeremy, whose relationship with girlfriend Alessandra de Rossi recently hit a snag: "I told him to be a gentleman, period."

As a comedian, Joey believes, he gets away with so much more than the ordinary guy.

"I make my girlfriends laugh. There's never a dull moment."

Once it's over, he makes it a point to keep his mouth shut "and to protect them, no matter what."

For example, when Benjie Paras, his co-star on the GMA 7

sitcom "Lagot Ka, Isusumbong Kita," cracked a joke about ex-wife Alma Moreno, Joey lost his cool.

"My rule of thumb is ... you can joke about everything, even my [receding] hairline. But not about the mothers of my children."

He reportedly slugged Benjie on the chest. Joey shrugs off that one: "Lambingan lang 'yon (That's just how we show affection)."

He says he has patched things up with Benjie. "We both apologized. Everything is back to normal on the set."

Another scuttlebutt that Joey has had to dodge concerned ex-girlfriend Alicia Mayer, who figured in a bar brawl because she supposedly got jealous after catching him with another girl.

"I don't know anything about that," he says. "It doesn't mean that because I'm talking to a woman, she's my girlfriend. But that's people's perception of me ... what can I do?"

Joey fights this "perception" even on the big screen.

In Jose Javier Reyes' "I Wanna Be Happy," he is breaking free of the carefree "Tsong"/"Bobo Cop" character.

"I was pleased when (Seiko producer) Robbie Tan offered me the role of a conservative dentist," he says.

So what makes him happy? "My children," he replies quickly.

How many kids does he have, exactly?

"Enough to keep me working until the day I die."



Joey Marquez asks: "Why do women, when a love affair ends, refuse to remain friends?"

Gary V says goodbye

By **IRENE R. SINO-CRUZ**
INQUIRER

CEBU CITY—Gary Valenciano, Mr. Pure Energy, said goodbye to his fans recently during a free concert at the Ayala Center here ... but not before he and his son Gab rocked the hall and sent them cheering.

Gary said it could be his last performance in Cebu for a long while, since his family was moving to the United States and staying for the first full quarter of the year.

Gary wowed young and old alike, as he always did when he came around. They sang with him when he dished out his popular ballads, and rocked to the beat when he shifted to a dance mode.

Showdown

His "dance showdown" with Gabriel, or "Gab," proved he could still shake it. To the crowd's applause, he sang "Wait Forever," carrier single of his latest album, "Relevance." The song was composed by Cebuano Jude Gitamondoc, who did five of the songs in the album.

In a press conference after the concert, Gary V said the plan to relocate to the US came about after a meeting with songwriter/record producer Craig Jensen and an offer of the Jesus Is Lord Movement (JIL) for him to do a 45-city world tour.

Jensen, who brought Fra Lippo Lippi to the country recently, had urged Gary to reach a wider audience for his gospel songs.

It's time

Gary said JIL's offer convinced him it was time to



Gary Valenciano and his family is moving to the United States and staying there for the first full quarter of the year.

do just that. In March or April next year, the tour starts, he said. In between, he will be doing some recordings.

Gary said he was excited about the planned move, "to promote my inspirational songs there," but admitted he was finding it difficult to leave old friends behind. And so for him, he said, the prospect is "bittersweet."

In the US, the singer said, he intended to study music production and sound engineering—for both CD and film.

Love you, too, or love you two?

By **DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL**
INQUIRER

Jeremy Marquez is on cloud nine now that Alessandra de Rossi is back in his arms. But when you are walking on air, you should watch your steps. Jeremy knows that only too well. So he's making sure that he's playing it right this time. Or should I say that he's no longer a player?

"Alex and I are better than ever," says Jeremy. "Stronger and happier. I promise I'll be good and take care of the one I love."

Love is indeed lovelier the second time around, if there's no more fooling around. It should be "I love you, too" and not "I love you two."

Not guilty

Jennylyn Mercado was pinpointed by Alex as one of the many girls who had flirted with Jeremy. She claims that Jen kept sending Jeremy sweet messages even while she was in the US filming "I Luv NY."

I cornered Jen about it. She clarified: "Jeremy asked for my number; I gave him the number of my road manager, not mine. I didn't want to embarrass him by not giving any number. I'm wary of cell phone bills so when I was in the States, I hardly texted anybody. I hope Alex and I get a chance to talk so I can prove to her that I'm

not the one texting Jeremy. But I won't apologize because I'm not guilty naman." If being friends with Jeremy is wrong, Jen doesn't want to be a repeat offender.

Cover girl

Angelica Panganiban doesn't deny that she's still not completely over Carlo Aquino. Their break-up was painful, she says. "It's not easy because we practically grew up together. I went through a stage na every 6 p.m., I would cry because I missed him. It's as if my tears fell on cue."

For sure, many guys out there are dying to replace Carlo in Angelica's life, especially after they saw her on the cover of Maxim Philippine edition (ABS-CBN Publishing Inc.'s first franchise title). "She's someone the competition has been dying to get on their cover but couldn't," said editor-in-chief Vanni de Sequerra. He added that Maxim's approach is one of respect and celebration of women. "It's sexy, but it's not just about sex."

Just asking

Could it be true that Roxanne Guinoo and Joross Gamboa have split up? Insiders insist that, on-cam, they seem okay but off-cam they've been giving each other the cold shoulder. Have they each found another shoulder to cry on?

It's all about

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Swanie joins the Puruntongs

By **BAYANI SAN DIEGO JR.**
INQUIRER

The Puruntongs are back, he said, and he didn't mean those ratty shorts made famous by Dolphy on "John & Marsha."

It was 48 hours before the first taping day for the new ABS-CBN sitcom, "John En Shirley," and veteran TV director Bert de Leon was on pins and needles.

"I'm very nervous," De Leon told Inquirer Entertainment on Monday.

And well he should be, since the cast is led by Comedy King Dolphy and movie queens Susan Roces and Maricel Soriano.

"It will be my first time to direct all three," said De Leon, obviously daunted by the "casting coup."

Moreover, "John En Shirley" is a spin-off from the country's longest-running (1973-1990) and beloved comedy classic, "John & Marsha."

Dolphy and the late Nida Blanca had portrayed John and Marsha Puruntong, with Maricel as daughter Shirley and Rolly Quizon as son Rolly.

De Leon acknowledged "a certain amount of pressure." But they're not about to recreate the legend of "John & Marsha," he said. "This is a different show."

Will Dolphy, who will now play a widower, still wear his iconic boxer shorts?

"Maybe, but they're now branded Louis Vuitton," De Leon jested.

"John En Shirley" is line-produced by KB Entertainment, owned by Kitchie Benedicto, whose family's station KBS 9 created the original "John & Marsha."

De Leon pointed out that Susan's character, Encarnacion or the "En" in the title, was part of the story from the start. He related: "When we were casting the role, we threw around lots of names. But when Susan's name cropped up, we all got excited. Indeed, why not aim for the moon?"

ABS-CBN and KB then initiated talks with Susan, through her representative Dolor Guevarra.

"The first thing she asked for was the script," De Leon said. "That time, we didn't have one ready, so I sent my sequence treatment." A few days later, Susan sent word that she was interested. "This all happened in a matter of days," said De Leon.

Questions

"She liked the role," Guevarra confirmed with Inquirer.

Then, Susan asked for a formal meeting with De Leon and company. "We had dinner with her," he recalled. "She asked many questions."

He said he assured Susan—Swanie in show biz circles—that Encarnacion was not an updated version of John's meddlesome mother-in-law, Doña Delilah, immortalized by comic Dely Atay-Atayan.

"I explained to her that her character

is offbeat—something to look forward to," De Leon said.

"Champoy" graduate Noel Trinidad is cast as Swanie's husband; Vandolph, as Dolphy's youngest son Atong.

Was it a rumored hefty talent fee then that convinced the 1960s movie queen?

De Leon was non-committal. "I'm involved only in the creative aspect."

Reunion

Guevarra, when asked, laughed heartily and said, "I don't know ... Susan said she's looking forward to working with Dolphy again. One of her first big movies, 'Boksingera Daw' (1956) also starred Dolphy." De Le

De Leon revealed that, for him, working with the Comedy King is a dream come true.

Dolphy's old sitcom, "Home Along da Riles" on ABS-CBN had run directly against the Vic Sotto show directed by De Leon, "Daddy Di Do Du," on GMA 7.

Does this mean that "John En Shirley" will go head-to-head with "Daddy"?

De Leon clarified: "I purposefully requested that we avoid that. I'm not affiliated with any network. It's just that my two shows ("Eat Bulaga" and "Daddy") are now aired by GMA 7. In the past, I did 'Eat' (on GMA 7) at the same time as 'The Sharon Cuneta Show' (on ABS-CBN). As a freelancer, I can always go network-hopping."

Nic wears mom Lea's gown to christening

By **BAYANI SAN DIEGO JR.**
INQUIRER

International theater star Lea Salonga's firstborn, Nicole Beverly Chien, was baptized on Sunday at the St. James the Great Parish in Alabang, with only a handful of friends and family as witnesses.

It was "beautiful," Lea told Inquirer Entertainment in an e-mail on Tuesday.

"It had rained really hard the day before," the happy mom wrote. "But the [actual christening] day was perfect, weather-wise."

The godparents were Lea's brother Gerard, best buddy Steffi Inocentes, Sony-BMG marketing and sales director

Narciso Chan, theater colleague Menchu Lauchengo-Yulo and family friend Gina de Venecia (wife of Speaker Jose de Venecia). Gina, who was in Hong Kong at the time of the christening, was represented by sister Chona Perez-Ampil.

Lea had very carefully picked them: "They are all close friends ... people whom we know will help us raise Nicole to be the best person she can be. I wanted godparents who ... would really be there for Nicole as she grows, and grows up in faith. I also wanted people who represented Rob and me. These are different people from different worlds, coming together for this little girl."

Ninang Steffi had crafted the invites, gift tags, party décor and balloon centerpieces, said Lea.

Dad Rob Chien played shutterbug to the hilt, happily clicking away all day.

How did baby Nic take the hubbub?

"Very well, I'm proud to say," Lea said. "She slept throughout the ceremony and flinched just a little when holy water was poured on her head. She also stayed asleep during the party at home, even as she was greeted by the guests. Even my mother couldn't believe how well-behaved she was."

Abu Ligaya revealed that Nic's baptismal gown was first worn by Lea to her own christening.

Ligaya recounted: "I kept the dress, cap and shoes for 35 years. It was made by one of Lea's ninangs—Queenie, sister of (Inquirer society columnist) Maurice Arcache."

The dress is made of organza, with yellow scallop embroidery.

"When Lea was baptized, a psychic-friend predicted that she would become Miss Philippines in 1989," Ligaya added. "Instead, she became 'Miss Saigon.'"

There was no fortune-teller on Nic's big day but, judging from her godparents' smiles, she has a bright future ahead of her—indeed, one filled with "love and light" as her mom earlier described her.

"I'd like her to pursue her own dreams," Lea said. "As parents, Rob and I [will] raise her to be God-fearing, to be a good person with a good set of morals and values. Beyond that, it's all up to her."



International theater star Lea Salonga's firstborn, Nicole Beverly Chien, was baptized on Sunday at the St. James the Great Parish in Alabang.



Jeff Tan's big 'school project'

By **BAYANI SAN DIEGO JR.**
INQUIRER

His supervising producer Roselle Monteverde-Teo was the first to point out that "White Lady" director Jeffrey "Jeff" Tan could be a tad OC.

"A bona fide perfectionist," Teo said. "He used up 32 tapes. If you were to convert that to film stock, it would be over a hundred thousand feet of film."

Tan exerted no effort to deny this.

"This is an action-packed, effects-filled movie," he said. "Since I followed the script, I had to shoot one scene from different angles."

Meticulous

Good thing he used a high-definition camera, a Sony CineAlta.

"It produces images with high resolution and, since you can attach a film lens to it, it also offers a good depth of field," he said. "It's almost like using a 35mm film camera."

True to his meticulous ways, he prepared, with the help of a computer animator, 2,000 storyboard images.

He explained: "Storyboards are helpful in shooting scenes that require lots of special effects. It allows the director to estimate a scene's length, down to the last second. It also makes the shoot more cost-efficient."

Tan said he gave his all in making "White Lady." Like the proverbial kid in the candy store, he had a ball toying with the different F/X computer programs of post-production house Ignite Media.

Post-prod

"There are over 300 shots of effects in this movie. That's approximately 30 minutes of special effects," he said, adding that post-production took two to three months in the F/X studio.

He also pulled out all the stops in creating the trailer.

"It was made by three Chinoys," he said jokingly, referring to trailer editor John Wong, producer Teo and himself. "Since Roselle was in the

United States at that time, John and I would e-mail her rough cuts of the trailer via video streaming."

A Multimedia Arts graduate at the De La Salle University-College of Saint Benilde, Tan started directing at 17.

"My mom (the late Bella Tan of Universal Records) wanted to put up her own production company to make music videos for her artists," he recalled.

In reverse

The self-taught filmmaker surfed the Net, read tons of books, interviewed directors and cinematographers and studied every medium available, from DV to film.

He has made music videos for artists as diverse as Jay-R and Orange and Lemons.

For Jed Madela's "How Can I Fall," Tan envisioned the balladeer free-falling from a skyscraper.

Tan reported: "We shot the video in reverse. Jed's challenge was to sing it backwards. While we had two months to prepare, he only had two weeks to memorize the lyrics in reverse. We even had a computer laptop on the set, to make sure everything was in sync."

Apparently, being OC yields results.

Jeff's latest work, "Break Me," Gary Valenciano's tribute to mom Bella, clinched at least five nominations at the MTV Pilipinas Video Music Awards, including Best Director and Video of the Year.

The 24-year-old candidly described his debut movie as "a school project."

Light mood

Since he's almost the same age as most of his stars (Angelica Pangiban, Pauleen Luna, Jason Abalos), the mood on the set was invariably light.

"We just laughed at their bloopers. If they arrived late, their punishment was to feed everyone. It was a very relaxed set," he said.

OPINYON

Has the Philippines reached the tipping point?

By **CONRADO SANCHEZ JR.**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

This month, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will deliver her State of the Nation Address. I suggest that she present the administration's government reorganization program as the defining theme of her address.

The President knew that the bills to increase taxes on tobacco and alcohol and expand and raise the value-added tax (VAT) would not pass Congress unless the sacrifice she was asking of our people was matched by streamlining the government service and trimming down the bloated government bureaucracy, with the purpose of cutting down public spending and demonstrating to the whole world that we were serious about restoring fiscal stability. She promised that following the passage of the VAT, her administration would implement a thorough-going reorganization of government departments along with the privatization of government corporations and other public agencies. The task was assigned to then-secretary of the budget Emilia Boncodin. And we heard little about the reorganization program since.

We are still in severe fiscal crisis. The passage of the new VAT and "sin taxes" laws allowed the Philippines to buy a little more time to prevent an Argentine-type crunch.

Argentina's economy crashed after its government failed to control spending, forcing it to default on the payment of its \$132-billion foreign debt in December 2004. It was the largest sovereign-debt default on record. By October 2002, 57.5 percent of its people were living below the poverty line and about 27.5 percent were living in extreme poverty. Overnight, wide layers of the middle class became impoverished in a way that had not been seen in any industrial country since the 1930s. Over a quarter of the working population became unemployed and those who managed to keep their jobs suffered wage cuts of 20 percent.

Argentina's government seized pension funds to pay interest on its debts. Public sector workers suffered wage and pension cuts of 15 percent and were paid with coupons instead of money for months. The government also imposed a limit on how much people could withdraw from their bank accounts. All this brought about massive rioting.

But the biggest problem encountered by Argentines stemmed from the depreciation of the peso. With the currency trading at about three pesos to the US dollar, instead of the one-for-one exchange rate that prevailed before, many goods tied to the dollar became out of reach for many consumers. (If the same misfortune were to occur in the Philippines, the exchange rate would slump to P150 to a dollar.)

Economists said the "tipping point" was reached when the pool of tax revenues was unable to service rising foreign debt, which had grown \$132 billion by 2001. That year, Argentina's gross domestic product (GDP) amounted to \$268.83 billion. Hence, the tipping point was reached when its foreign debt equaled nearly half the country's economic output -- 49.66 percent, to be exact.

Records show that by the end of 2005, the Philippines' foreign debt amounted to \$66.12 billion, easily more than double the debt left by the spendthrift Ferdinand Marcos administration. On the other hand, our GDP added up to only \$97.65 billion in 2005. It is very disturbing to note that our foreign debt is now equivalent to 67.71 percent of our total output of goods and services! The Argentinian

The Argentinian economy crashed when fiscal mismanagement allowed its foreign debt to grow to one-half of the country's GDP. The Philippine government managed to get away with a foreign debt amounting to more than two-thirds of the country's annual output.

Has the Philippines reached its tipping point? Let our first-rate economic experts decide that. However, the statistics show a very dismal picture.

In a recent article, Romeo Bernardo, a former undersecretary of finance, noted that after the passage of the VAT law, the government achieved a kind of "graveyard stability." But he warned: "The biggest risk now is squandering revenue gains from the VAT to score short-term political points."

The level of our foreign debt will continue to rise, "sin taxes" and VAT notwithstanding. This year, total foreign borrowings are projected at \$1.4 billion, according to the Department of Budget and Management. This does not include additional domestic borrowings of P56 billion, money that could be put to more productive use by the private sector. Officially, the DBM announced that the consolidated public sector deficit for 2006 will be P128 billion.

The state of our fiscal affairs is still manageable. However, we cannot afford the near-term risk of an unsustainable foreign debt burden. The fiscal problem should be addressed promptly and in an orderly way. The first step loaded the already cash-strapped public with burdensome new taxes. To avert an Argentine-type crunch, the second painful but necessary step is to shrink the bloated government bureaucracy and privatize government corporations.

The Filipino people don't deserve the wrenching, confiscatory deflation imposed by the government of Argentina on its citizens not so long ago.

Conrado Sanchez Jr. is a former governor of the Board of Investments and worked with the United Nations for 18 years.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

'Political' clergy a sign of a failed Church

I was an altar boy in my hometown in Cagayan Valley. We altar boys did odd jobs at the residence of the priests assigned to our parish. The oddest was oiling the creaking bed of the assistant parish priest who—before dawn and as the old parish priest was saying the first Mass at 5 in the morning—would order us to fetch and shield from the barking dogs his mistress, a married woman.

The old parish priest later died in an accident. His assistant, I heard, was defrocked after siring two children by his mistress. Years later, I met his mistress again, by then a "mama san" in an Ermita bar.

These thoughts came back to me as I ponder on the intrusion into politics of several bishops—Deogracias Iñiguez, Oscar Cruz, et al. Of course, priests who want to lord it over politics as well—and over other things worldly, such as the one I cited earlier—have been with us the moment the friars set foot in our country. Padre Damaso and Padre Salvi seemed to have sprung out from Jose Rizal's novels and lived up to this day.

This is not to deny the rights of priests as citizens or the legitimacy of the points raised by Iñiguez, Cruz, et al. Election cheating, graft and corruption, the "jueteng" illegal numbers game, among others, are indeed moral issues and are, therefore, within the province of religion.

But if we talk about morality and the gross decline of moral values that the bishops want us to take note of, perhaps, we also need to talk about why it came to this, despite the fact that we are the bigger of the only two predominantly Christian countries in Asia. The reason is that the Catholic Church has failed in its mission despite almost 500 years of missionary work in our country. The fact is we continue to be confronted by the same issues Rizal wrote about. Why, the Church up to this time even holds on to vast tracts of lands which are exempt from tax and agrarian reform.

If people continue to cheat, lie, steal and gamble—about which the good bishops are ranting—what would that say of our priests and high priests? Iñiguez, Cruz, et al. may be just as frustrated as we are. That is why they now want to engage directly in politics. Yet, why not? They just need to be honest about it. That should be a good and fresh start. We may yet have honest politicians.

Danilo de Austria Consumido
via e-mail

Pawn-feeding time

The appointment of Rep. Jesli Lapus of Tarlac province as secretary of education brings down to 77 the number of votes required to send articles of impeachment to the Senate. Never has the bar been set so low and yet seemingly unattainable. One reason is that the pressure on members of the House of Representatives remains divorced from the unpopularity of the President: Some political observers are of the opinion that supporting an unpopular president will never be a political liability for members of the House. The congressmen know it and act accordingly. Many are the blessings to be gained for continuing to pooh-pooh impeachment, as Rep. Rodolfo Antonino of Nueva Ecija province fully knows (as part of the President's party in Rome, he was seen wearing a broad smile).

However, the administration's behavior in recent weeks showed continued nervousness on its part, and increasing ruthlessness in dealing with allies who have come to be perceived as liabilities. But then, what are pawns for, if not victims to be offered up as strategic sacrifices? It's pawn-feeding time.

The war on the Catholic Church has proven fruitful: So long as the bishops remain divided, their words can be downplayed. What does it matter if

some bishops were offended, as one bishop put it, by the offer of cash envelopes? What's important is that bishops are portrayed as not beyond the temptation of cash. That perception, once planted in the minds of the public, can only erode the credibility of whatever they say. In the time of Ferdinand Marcos, for every Jaime Cardinal Sin who became increasingly critical, there was always a Julio Cardinal Rosales to fawn on the ruling couple. The same applies today, resulting in, at the very least, a pastoral statement that can still be spun in helpful ways.

The release of the video of Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, while disproving the existence of a "leftist-rightist conspiracy," let loose a cloud to follow Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga and a downpour on every one of his going-away parades. Every officer has been warned that military discipline should be along the lines of Gen. Fabian Ver's famous (though apocryphal) response to Marcos' order for him to jump out the window: "From which floor, Sir?" The Commander in Chief's expectations of obedience are indeed strict.

The question of a conspiracy can be addressed through the apprehension of escapees: There, the administration can claim, was a conspiracy, though how

they could have accomplished their aims by being on the run remains unanswered. What official revelations suggest is that those captured may have been full of bravura, but pretty far from actually accomplishing anything. Though I really wonder how many Filipinos would weep were Congress to be held at gunpoint—not even the President's local government allies, themselves constantly at odds with congressmen, would mind.

There, too, was the rather clever sidestepping of a Supreme Court deadline by throwing the least partisan—and controversial—of Commission on Elections members to the wolves. And now, reports of the arrest

of Joc-Joc Bolante, the one administration-identified individual who served as a living antidote to all the hysterics aimed by the President's supporters at critics like Dinky Soliman (déclassé as she is, can you honestly find her more reprehensible than Bolante?). The pawns are indeed plentiful, and handing them over one by one not only buys time, but further clouds the issues.

A recent survey by the Social Weather Stations poll group says the President's unpopularity has significantly decreased from -25 in March of this year, to -13 as of June. It's a big improvement, bringing her a couple of steps higher, but still pretty deep in the basement of public opinion.

Her unpopularity has significantly increased in Metro Manila, sinking to an unprecedented -48 as of June; and what's of greater significance, her unpopularity has increased among those formerly considered the bulwark of her support base: the ABC classes. Those classes had her at -17 in March; as of June, her unpopularity stood at -27, which is a big

change. The only times she's been more unpopular, apparently, were in December of 2000 and May of last year.

So while the President can breathe a sigh of relief that the masses are less inclined to lynch her, it's still not saying much. In the Visayas, her regional bailiwick outside of Pampanga, public opinion seems statistically neutral: she has a +2 rating, a big improvement from

the -12 she had in March. Mindanao, too, showed a large shift, from -32 to -7. Negative numbers aren't something to boast about in a democracy, where the Americans for example, are heaping scorn on George W. Bush for having a rating in the low 30s: he's never hit negative numbers but it seems scandalous to Americans that they have a president disliked by roughly 70 percent of the population. Here at home, the chief executive knows she's luckier.

It doesn't matter that more people dislike her than like her, so long as those who don't like her fail to reach a critical mass. As it stands, those who are satisfied with the President make up 34 percent of the population; those who are dissatisfied make up 48 percent. Subtracting one from the other is why the SWS can conclude that the President's net satisfaction stood at -13 as of June.

It's all a matter of, as the song goes, "how low can you go?" Like singing "Limbo Rock" at a beach party, the surveys only serve to show that the stick of public opinion can be held lower and lower, but the President will find a way to slide underneath, without falling on her back. And that's because she recognized, earlier than most, that our democracy operates not on what majorities you hold, but the stubbornness of the minorities you can retain.



The Long View

By **MANUEL L. QUEZON III**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SAMU'T SARI



HEALTH SCREENING

Filipino overseas contract workers avail of the free health screening recently held at the Philippine Consulate General.

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Philippine Consulate General officials and officers of different Filipino organizations in the CNMI pose for a souvenir shot soon after the raising of the Philippine flag on June 11, to mark the country's Independence Day. The Philippine Independence Day officially falls on June 12.



BAYANIHAN SPIRIT

Volunteers from the Filipino group CNMI Power help build the float that the United Filipino Organizations fielded for the Liberation Day Parade float competition on July 4.



4TH PLACE

The United Filipino Organizations float wins fourth place during the Liberation Day Parade float competition held on July 4. The float featured a re-enactment of Camp Susupe.



OFW 'TROOPS'

Members of the CNMI Power, United Filipino Organizations, and Pilcowa pose for a souvenir photo in front of the UFO float that won fourth place during the recent Liberation Day Parade float competition held on July 4.



TABLEAUX

Members of the United Filipino Organizations form a tableaux atop the Liberation Day Parade float to portray the World War II liberation of Camp Susupe. They portray a soldier, a nurse, a nun, a patient, and a doctor.



SANTACRUZAN

Members of different Filipino organizations portray queens for the Santacruzian that was held as part of the Liberation Day parade held on July 4.



NAVYMEN

Two Filipino-American members of the U.S. Navy ask to pose for a souvenir picture with United Filipino Organizations president Corie Borja during the Liberation Day parade on July 4.